

Message Text

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14-10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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R 130730Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 148

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1188

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW, YO

SUBJECT: PALME'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: STOCKHOLM 718 (NOTAL)

1. DURING DINNER AT MY RESIDENCE, PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME MENTIONED HIS FORTHCOMING OFFICIAL VISIT TO BELGRADE. HE TOLD ME THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR EITHER A TITO VISIT TO SWEDEN OR A VISIT BY PALME TO BELGRADE. PALME WILL TAKE WITH HIM AN INVITATION FOR TITO TO VISIT SWEDEN THIS FALL.
2. PALME WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SECRETARY OF STATE ANDERS THUNBORG; MFA EASTERN EUROPEAN DIVISION CHIEF LARS BERGQUIST; AND PALME'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT, PIERRE SCHORI. OFFICIAL DINNER MARCH 16 (SUNDAY) WILL BE FOLLOWED BY MEETINGS WITH TITO, DOLANC AND OTYRS MARCH 17.

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3. PALME SAID THAT THE SWEDES ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED OVER

SUCCESSION PROSPECTS IN YUGOSLAVIA. HE THINKS KARDELJ IS TOO SICK TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE DURING THE SUCCESSION PERIOD.

4. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT:

- THE SWEDISH VISITOK WILL BE LOOKING FOR YUGOSLAV INSIGHTS INTO THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP SITUATION;
- THE MFA ANALYSIS IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS LIKELY TO BEHAVE DISCREETLY DURING THE SUCCESSION PHASE IN YUGOSLAVIA, EXERTING QUIET INFLUENCE BUT NOT SEEKING A DRASTIC CHANGE IN YUGOSLAVIA THAT WOULD UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER IN EUROPE;
- THE MFA EXPECTS THE YUGOSLAVS TO DIGRESS AT LENGTH ON JOINT YUGOSLAV-SWEDISH COOPERATION ON THIRD MARKET PROJECTS BUT DOUBTS DISCUSSVN WILL LEAD TO CONCRETE RESULTS.

5. MFA SOURCE ALSO TELLS US YUGOSLAVS SAY TITO HAS GREAT INTEREST IN PALME AS EMERGING LEADER (REPLACING WILLY BRANDT) ON FIRMAMENT OF WORLD SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT. IF YUGOSLAVS ARE INDEED SAYING THIS, THEY HAD CORRECTLY GAUGED PALME'S SUSCEPTIBILITIES TO FLATTERY ON THIS ACCOUNT. AT DINNER, PALME WAS CORDIAL, RELAXED AND DEMONSTRATIVELY, I THINK, STAYED UNTIL NEAR MIDNIGHT. IN HIS CONVERSATION HE DWELT WITH CONSIDERABLE PRIDE ON HIS PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN GAINING AND WIELDING POWER ON THE SWEDISH SCENE. IT IS CLEAR THAT HE LOOKS FOR WIDER HORIZONS.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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